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For the post-war period we find that the Board's figure for hourly earnings of skilled inside labor for October, 1921, is 0.677, while the data furnished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for January, 1922, give 0.686 as the hourly earnings.¹ For common inside labor the Board's figure for October is 0.596, while the Bureau's data for January, 1922, give the hourly earnings as 0.599.² The semi-monthly earnings of skilled labor as shown by the Board were 9.5 per cent higher than the semi-monthly earnings shown by the Bureau. This is due to the fact that the average hours actually worked were considerably higher as shown by the Board than as shown by the Bureau. In the case of common labor the hours worked were about the same in the two studies, and therefore since the hourly earnings were similar the semi-monthly earnings were likewise similar.

The wage increases of contract miners especially (contract miners constitute about 30 per cent of all anthracite wage-earners) as shown in this report appear to be somewhat greater than other available data would indicate. This may be partly due to the questionnaire method which has been criticized by Mr. Douglas in previous issues of this JOURNAL. In part it may be due to the fact that the base period used by the Board (June, 1914) was far from normal, as the present reviewer has elsewhere attempted to show.³ Although a study of wage rates would not be affected much by using such a base, a study of earnings using an abnormal period for a base would present a distorted picture. Again, it does not appear quite fair to compare the wages from October, 1920, to October, 1921, with those for June, 1914, without showing the earnings in the intervening period. The great increase in anthracite wages came in 1920. The earnings of anthracite labor in 1920 and 1921 were far more favorable than those of earlier years, particularly the years prior to 1918.

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Report on Productive Industries, Railways, Taxes and Assessments, Waterways, and Miscellaneous Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1920. Department of Internal Affairs. Compiled by the Bureau of Statistics and Information, M. Hoke Gottschall, Director, Harrisburg, Pa.: J. L. L. Kuhn, Printer to the Commonwealth. 1921. 1,040 pp.

In a "foreword" to this report the Secretary of Internal Affairs, James F. Woodward, makes the following statement in the opening paragraph:

In the year 1872 the first official report on industrial statistics for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was issued by the "Commissioner of Statistics" and the presentation of this report covering the year 1920, therefore, becomes the 48th Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information. The records of the Department of Internal Affairs show a complete set of these Annual Reports and they portray a marvelous development of industry in Pennsylvania.

¹ *Monthly Labor Review*, May, 1922. The above figure for skilled labor was obtained by taking a weighted average of the hourly earnings of blacksmiths, bratticemen, machinists, masons, company miners, timbermen, and trackmen as given by the Bureau.

² For common labor a weighted average of the hourly earnings of cagers, car-runners, drivers, and laborers was calculated.

³ "The Buying Power of Labor During the War," this JOURNAL, March, 1922.

As indicated by its title, the report is of wide scope, relating, as it does, not only to the industrial activities of the Commonwealth, but also including "miscellaneous statistics reflecting activities of the various departments of the Commonwealth for the year 1920." Virtually, therefore, it fulfils a two-fold purpose—that of recording the progress of the industries of the Commonwealth, and that of serving as a statistical abstract of Pennsylvania, analagous, in general plan, to the Statistical Abstract of the United States. Thus in a single volume are brought together the principal statistical data relative to the Commonwealth, rendering it unnecessary for one to consult numerous official reports in order to gain a general knowledge of the resources and development of the state. In connection with each statistical table, not obtained from *original* sources by the Department of Internal Affairs, due acknowledgment is made of the "secondary source" from which the data were obtained.

Aside from the brief foreword (3 pages) and a few paragraphs accompanying several of the miscellaneous tables, the entire report consists of statistical tables. It is to be regretted that the report did not include a description of the methods employed by the Bureau of Statistics and Information in securing data from original sources, and at least a few pages of interpretative text, with a discussion of the more significant results of its inquiries. Prior to the issuance of the report, summaries, in text form, of the principal facts with reference to the industrial activities of the Commonwealth were issued as "press releases," which, if they had been incorporated as an introduction to the report, would have added materially to its interest, at least to many persons who have little, if any, interest in a mere collection of statistical tables. In the foreword, it is true, allusion is made to "the more than 5,000,000 separate tabulations herewith presented," but the reader is left in disquieting doubt as to what is meant by a "tabulation," as the number of separate tables can be expressed with not more than two digits, and even of separate totals a rough estimate does not reach to a half-million.

Because of the fact that the report consists almost wholly of tabular matter, a critical review must confine itself primarily to the form and arrangement of the tables. These conform to accepted practice in official publications, except that the titles are not sufficiently explicit to indicate adequately the nature of the data presented therein. This criticism is particularly true of the tables of "industrial statistics" constituting Parts I, II, and III of the report and comprising over 600 pages. Only by an examination of the box headings can one determine that the data in these tables relate to "industries," and even then only after reading through several pages of side headings does one become aware that the data do not relate wholly to manufacturing industries but include also building and contracting, mines and quarries, and public service. Part III, entitled "Detail Industrial Tabulation for 1920 by Counties and Selected Municipalities," consists of two tables of similar form, together occupying 545 pages. As no continued titles or page headings are given, the first page of the second table, which has reference to municipalities, cannot be readily located. The table of contents might be of service in assisting one to locate the various tables in the report were it more detailed, but it is merely a list of the titles of the nine "Parts" of the report and does not even include references to the initial pages of the respective

parts. A complete list of the tables with page references would enable the reader to turn to any table without difficulty. Usually in voluminous governmental reports consisting principally of tabular matter (as, for example, the United States census reports) a table of contents and a list of tables, both with initial page references, appear immediately or closely following the title page.

There is an index to the report of which no mention is made in the foreword or table of contents, so-called. For one not already familiar with the subject-matter of the report the index does not serve adequately as a reference guide to particular tables. For example, there is among the large number of miscellaneous tables one entitled "Number of arrivals and departures of vessels," but there does not appear to be any reference whatever in the index to "vessels," "arrivals," or "departures," nor any means of locating this table other than by laboriously turning the pages until page 898 is reached.

No opinion as to the accuracy of the data presented in the report would be justified unless the critic had first inquired into the methods employed in the collection of information from the original sources, and in editing and tabulating the returns; but a close examination of certain of the tables leads to some question as to whether or not requisite care was observed in editing the report. By way of illustration: In the first table in the report, which bears the title "State Summary," industrial statistics for the several years 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, and 1920, are presented in parallel columns and, presumably, these data are strictly comparable; yet it appears that the "number of plants operated" in 1920 was 26,077, while in 1919 there were only 20,888, and that there was an increase, in a single year, of 5,189 plants operated, or nearly 25 per cent, which increase any one reasonably familiar with industrial conditions in Pennsylvania during these two years would immediately question. The explanation of this inordinate increase in the number of plants operated is found in the following statement which appeared in a press release issued by the Department on October 21, 1921.

According to the preliminary figures announced by Secretary of Internal Affairs Woodward, there were 26,076 industrial establishments reporting to the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs in 1920. In the preceding year there were 20,888, and included in the increase last year were numerous small plants which had never before been called upon to make reports and which affected the general production valuation total but little. Of course newly established plants were also included in the increase.

Evidently the press release was issued several months prior to the date on which the report was issued in print, as a "letter of transmittal" appearing in the report was dated December 1, 1921. There was, therefore, ample opportunity to include in the report (at least as a note to the table above referred to) a statement explanatory of the increase in the number of plants operated, to which plants the industrial statistics, comprising considerably more than one half of the report, relate.

Objection might be raised to the publication of data relative to wages paid, capital invested, and total value of products in round hundreds of dollars when the amounts are comparatively small. Numerous items and totals of less than \$1,000 appear in the tables of industrial statistics. Readers of the report are entitled, at least, to know whether the tens and units were eliminated when the

questionnaires from individual reporting agencies were edited or when the tables were assembled for printing, but the report furnishes no explanation as to the method employed.

In general it may be said that the report under review should prove to be a very useful contribution to the rapidly growing list of official statistical reports periodically issued. Other states which do not issue a compendium of information relative to their industries and resources might well follow the example of Pennsylvania in this respect. Hardly any other "medium for disseminating information the public should have" could prove more effective than a volume of this character.

ROSWELL F. PHELPS

Wealth and Taxable Capacity, by Sir Josiah Stamp. London: P. S. King & Son, Ltd. 1922. 195 pp.

Sir Josiah Stamp's new book contains the Newmarch Lectures for 1920-21, and represents an "attempt to outline some of the elementary principles involved in the valuation of national capital and income, and the determination of their distribution and their relation to prices, taxation, and public debt." There are six chapters, dealing respectively with the National Capital, the National Income, the Distribution of Income and Capital, the Limits of Taxable Capacity, the Effect of Changing Price Levels upon Profits and Wages, and the Effect of Changing Price Levels on the Burden of Public Debt. The book is short and, in the words of the author, "suffers from the defects of the lecture form." It is difficult reading at points; the author is forced in many places to state conclusions rather dogmatically and to forego explanations which would be particularly welcome to foreign readers. But the essential questions involved are dealt with in a most helpful way, and in many respects the book gains from its brevity. One sees the forest better because some of the trees are omitted or sketched in the most impressionistic way, and the limitations under which the lecturer spoke only serve to emphasize his unusual mental vigor and statistical ingenuity.

It is really an essay in financial arithmetic, rather than a statistical discussion of the ordinary kind. Most of the figures are approximations subject to wide margins of possible error. The treatment is beset at every hand with technical and theoretical difficulties, which can be bridged only by the exercise of great ingenuity. Difficult questions of ethics and political psychology are involved. Yet these questions must in some way be answered. Our financial leaders must have quantitative ideas about the taxable capacity of their own and other countries, particularly that of Germany. British leaders, at least, must reach some conclusion about the approximate yield of a capital levy, or a levy upon war-made wealth. We must somehow form a conclusion about the distribution of the national dividend and decide whether the trend of change is encouraging or discouraging, wholesome or the reverse. Taxpayers and taxgatherers are particularly concerned at the present time with the effect of changing price levels upon profits and the public debt; and the last two lectures are unusually valuable, not because they represent a rounded and final treatment of this subject, but because